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Newsletter #19:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

I'm sending out this newsletter a little later than I wanted to because all the craziness caught up to me finally. I'm writing this from bed with a rather significant cold. Luckily my fingers still work though! It was very exciting this week with some of the largest auctions of the year happening.

A short recap is below along with upcoming events.

NAC and Hess Divo

For those of you that participated either through me or on your own in the NAC auction it was a clearly a mixed bag. The George LaBorde auction (sale 99) and the first part of catalog 100 were extremely strong. I was shut out of several important pieces due to the aggressive bidding on the floor, phone and internet. The interesting part thing is that I'm told that the strength of the auction was more from the Europeans than the Russians this time. In so many previous NAC auctions the Russians have been the leader, particularly in the area of Roman aureii. This time was not the case. Most of my customers got at least one piece so in the end I was very pleased.

The second part of the NAC auction was a far different story. Many of the coins went unsold or for below estimate. This was the first cooperation between NAC and their sister online auction house Naville. Naville is successful in its own right having many pedigreed but inferior pieces in their online auctions, however this formula may not be worthwhile in a live setting. The cost to create the catalog could not have been inexpensive and aside from a few pieces that hammered at reasonable levels, the majority did not sell as they should have.

While I did not have many bids for Hess Divo, I'm told by Ulf Künker that the auction was successful. Since the IAPN (International Assoc. Of Professional Numismatists) was taking place in Geneva a day after their auction, several bigger dealers stayed for Hess Divo. Hess Divo does not do live online bidding so between book bids and the several people on the floor it made for a successful auction. Proximity to NAC auction certainly did not hurt!

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are beginning to wind down for the summer and until August when the ANA happens in Denver, Colorado, there will be a lot less significant auctions. This is a time for everyone to enjoy their summer so naturally it gets slower.

That said, there are a few auctions that deserve notice and were mentioned in my last newsletter:

Pre-Long Beach Auction, Goldberg - June 6-7, 2017 (Los Angeles, CA)

The Goldbergs have two catalogs of coins that will be auctioned off at their offices on June 6-7. The first catalog is a nice Judaeen coin collection that might be worth looking through. I only got one copy of each catalog but you can view it online on Sixbid or Numisbids. They also have their normal offering of Greek, Roman and Byzantine coinage as well as U.S. and world on offer.

51 Gallery - June 9, 2017 (Brussels, Belgium)

51 Gallery has a rather important group of ancient coins (two of which are ex Metropolitan Museum of Art) that is fairly hidden in their June 9th auction. The ancient coins are oddly after 50 lots of Pro-Palestinian posters. This odd mishmash of coins with posters, precious stones and then paintings/antiques may prove to be a difficult sell. Despite some of the illustrious pedigrees, many of the coins have surface issues and the estimates are also high. I'm attracted to the small group because of the pedigrees but I recognize that this auction may prove unsuccessful due to some of the more obvious reasons stated above.

Upcoming Trade Shows

I'm happy to report that I am exhibiting at the Summer ANA in Denver, Colorado on August 1-6, 2017. My booth number is #930 and I will have a small but, nice group of ancient coins with me. Please come and see me at the show so we can meet face to face. I'll likely mention the show many more times and urge you to come to hopefully you won't bore of me mentioning it!

Coin of the Week <http://www.shannaschmidt.com/coin-of-the-week/>

Lysimachus was one of the bodyguards of Alexander III, the Great. Moreover, Lysimachus' family and Alexanders were close. After Alexander's death his kingdom was divided up among his generals and other figureheads at the time. The "Diadochi" as they were known were all-powerful and headstrong men and one can imagine that this was a volatile time in Greek history. There was fighting and wars among the men to establish themselves as rulers of Alexander's domain.

Lysimachus was initially made satrap of the area of Thrace and he oversaw this region for many years. Finally in 302 BC, Lysimachus was brought to the forefront of the quest for power when the ruler of Asia Minor, Antigonos Monophthalmus (the 'one eyed'), was overthrown at the Battle of Ipsus. With that battle, Lysimachus took control of the area of Asia Minor, along with Thrace. Eventually Lysimachus successfully took Macedon from Demetrios Poliorcetes, the son of Antigonos who had control of the area since 294 BC.

After the initial successes, Lysimachus' life took a dark turn. Among his several wives, mostly betrothed to him for strategic reasons, Arsinoe II of Egypt proved to be his downfall. Arsinoe first plotted to have Agathocles, Lysimachus' son executed on the false assumption of treason.

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Agathocles executed, chaos ensued and Seleucus I took the opportunity to invade Asia Minor, once held by Lysimachus. Lysimachus was slain by Seleucus I in the Battle of Corupedium in Lydia in 281 BC.

KINGDOM OF THRACE. Lysimachus. 306–281 BC. Amphipolis, c. 288–281 BC. Tetradrachm, 17.08g (31mm, 2h). Amphipolis, c. 288–281 BC. Head of Alexander the Great with Ammon horn right / Athena enthroned left, holding Nike and resting left elbow on shield decorated with lion's head, spear resting to her right; ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ to right, ΑΥΣΙΜΑΞΟΥ crowned by Nike to left, monograms in inner left field and exergue.

Pedigree: Ex Nomos FPL 2015, Ex. Roma 5, lot 299

Price: \$9,000

References: Thompson 201 var.

Grade: Good Extremely Fine. A severe, majestic portrait with a sublime old tone, in sculptural high relief.

If you are interested in this coin please email shanna@shannaschmidt.com

If you are interested in any other coins I have available please visit my website www.shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!

Shanna



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